

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 10, 21, and 31-40 are pending. Claims 1, 8, 10, 21, 31, and 32 are amended; Claims 11-20 and 22-30 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer; and Claims 33-40 are newly submitted. No new matter is introduced.¹

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-10 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kayahara (U.S. Patent No. 6,269,228) in view of Wieland (Japanese Patent Publication No. 04-226362); and Claims 31 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kayahara in view of Wieland and Nallinger (U.S. Patent No. 2,724,377).

In response to the Restriction Requirement being made final in the Office Action dated September 22, 2006, Claims 11-20 and 22-30, directed to non-elected inventions, are canceled. Applicant reserves the right to present claims directed to the non-elected inventions in a divisional application, which shall be subject to the third sentence of 35 U.S.C. § 121.²

The rejection of Claims 1-10, 21, 31, and 32 is traversed.

Independent Claims 1 and 21 each recite a belt driving device that includes plural rollers including a driving roller, and a belt configured to be tensioned by the plural rollers, and to be driven by the driving roller. Amended independent Claim 1 further recites:

¹ Support for the amended and newly submitted claims can be found at least in the claims as previously filed and at least at paragraphs [0058]-[0060] of the specification as originally filed with reference to Figures 6A, 6B, and 7, for example.

² “A patent issuing on an application with respect to which a requirement for restriction under this section has been made ... shall not be used as a reference ... against a divisional application.” See also MPEP § 804.01.

...*a viscous damper* arranged on a rotational axis of said driving roller and configured to absorb shock to said driving roller...

Amended independent Claim 21 further recites:

...a driving shaft that links *a viscous damper* to said driving roller, said viscous damper being configured to absorb shock to said driving roller...

None of the cited references disclose or suggest the claimed viscous damper.

Kayahara describes a printer unit 2 that includes an intermediate transfer unit 20 with an intermediate transfer belt 21 that is driven by a driving roller 24 and that also includes rollers 22, 23, and 25.³ In addition, Kayahara indicates that a transfer unit 30 has a secondary transfer bias controller 34 opposing the driving roller 24 of the intermediate transfer unit 20.⁴ Kayahara indicates that the transfer unit 30 includes a transfer contact/separation mechanism 33, which “enables the secondary transfer bias controller 34 to come into contact with and separate away from the intermediate transfer belt 21.”⁵ As shown in Kayahara Figure 2, the transfer contact/separation mechanism 33 is not located on a rotational axis of the secondary transfer bias controller 34, the driving roller 24, or any other roller in Kayahara. Moreover, Kayahara, fails to disclose or suggest a *viscous damper*, as recited in Claims 1 and 21.

Wieland fails to cure the deficiencies in Kayahara. The translated abstract of Wieland provided by the P.T.O merely states that “In a roller drive for rotating and laterally oscillating the inking roller and the damping roller in a rotary press, drive shafts 16, 18 are coupled with the inking roller and the damping roller to transmit a force while being born in the side

³ See Kayahara at Figure 2.

⁴ See Kayahara, at col. 30, lines 27-29.

⁵ See Kayahara, at col. 30, lines 30-34.

framework 7 of the rotary press.”⁶ However, Wieland, fails to disclose or suggest a *viscous damper*, as recited in Claims 1 and 21.

Nallinger fails to cure the deficiencies in the combination of Kayahara and Wieland.

Figure 1 of Wieland illustrates a mechanism that includes a film sprocket 5 which driven by a motor 41 and which advances a film 6 as its teeth 7 enter film perforations 8.⁷ The film 6 rotates a drum 10.⁸ The drum 10 is mounted on a rotatable shaft 14, on which is mounted a flywheel 15.⁹ Nallinger states that the flywheel 15 provides “the proper damping and and stabilization of the motion of the film 6 as it passes over the drum 10.”¹⁰ Initially, it is noted that the flywheel 15 is not on a rotational axis of a drive roller, as asserted at page 4, lines 1-2 of the outstanding Office Action. Instead, Nallinger describes that the drum 10, which shares an axis of rotation with the flywheel 15, is *driven by* the film sprocket 5. Thus, the fly wheel 15 shares an axis of rotation with a *driven drum*, not a *drive roller*. Moreover, Nallinger, fails to disclose or suggest a *viscous damper*, as recited in Claims 1 and 21.

Accordingly, even the combined teachings of Kayahara, Wieland and Nallinger fail to disclose or render obvious all of the features recited in amended independent Claims 1 or 21. It is submitted that Claims 1, 21 and the claims depending therefrom are in condition for allowance.

New Claims 33-36 depend from Claim 1, and new Claims 37-40 depend from Claim 21. New Claims 33-40 recite additional features that are not disclosed or rendered obvious by the cited references. Moreover, as discussed in detail above, it is respectfully submitted

⁶ See translated abstract of Wieland.

⁷ See Nallinger, at col. 1, lines 53-55.

⁸ See Nallinger, at col. 1, lines 56-57.

⁹ See Nallinger, at col. 1, lines 59-60.

¹⁰ See Nallinger, at col. 1, lines 60-62.

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that Claims 1 and 21 are allowable. Therefore Claims 33-36 and 37-40 are also allowable for at least the same reasons as Claims 1 and 21 from which they respectively depend.

For the reasons discussed above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-8, 10, 21, and 31-40 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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